

REMARKS

Pursuant to the Restriction Requirement Office Action mailed March 18, 2003, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, the claims of Group I, claim 1-10 and species a. (sonic) and h. (curable polymer) for further and continued prosecution.

The claims of Group I, claims 1-10, are directed to a method for removing contaminant particulate matter from a substrate. The claims of Group II, claims 11-20, are drawn to an apparatus for removing contaminant particulate matter from the contaminant particle containing substrate surface. The claims of Group III, claims 21-25 are drawn to a semiconductor electronic component made using the method of the claims of Group I.

Applicants respectfully submit that a search pertaining to one of the above-identified groups would necessarily encompass subject matter of the other group and separate searches for each group would be unwarranted and duplicative. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the requirement for restriction.

Further, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement and election of species on the grounds that 35 USC § 121 authorizes restriction only when the claimed invention is (independent and distinct). Again, a search for the subject claims of Group I, Group II and Group III would necessarily require a search of the subject matter of the other group and that therefore the claims are not directed to an independent and distinct matter.

Action on the merits of all the claims of Group I, II and III are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



John J. Tomaszewski
Reg. No. 26,241

DeLIO & PETERSON, LLC
121 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06510-1241
(203) 787-0595

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Name: Carol M. Thomas Date: March 25, 2003 Signature: Carol Thomas
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